

09/032450
08/23/00



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

| APPLICATION NUMBER | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED APPLICANT | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 09/032,450 | 02/27/98 | Gutkiewicz-Krusin | EOS-010 |

| EXAMINER | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Mehrdad Dastouri | |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| 2723 | #15 |

DATE MAILED:

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Mr. Rodney T. Hodgson (Reg # 37,849) (3) BIOAN TADAYON (AU2721)
(2) Mehrdad Dastouri (USPTO) (4) _____

Date of Interview 22 AUG 2000

Type: ☐ Telephonic ☒ Personal (copy is given to ☐ applicant ☒ applicant's representative).

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, brief description: SHOWED RESULTS OF VU-GRAPHS FOR EXPERIMENTS.

Agreement ☒ was reached. ☐ was not reached.

Claim(s) discussed: ALL INDEP. CLAIMS

Identification of prior art discussed: PRIOR ART OF RECORD

(BT 22 AUG 00) Description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: NOT YET ALLOWED EXAMINER AGREED THAT IF THE INDEP. CLAIMS HAVE THIS FEATURE, THEY WOULD BE ALLOWABLE & ATTORNEY AGREED: "SEGMENTATION BASED ON LARGEST AREA". ALSO IN THE CLAIMS, THE TERMS "SENSITIVITY" & "SPECIFICITY" SHOULD BE BETTER DEFINED.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments, if available, which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments which would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

1. ☐ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview.

Unless the paragraph above has been checked to indicate to the contrary, A FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION IS NOT WAIVED AND MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a response to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW.

2. ☐ Since the Examiner's interview summary above (including any attachments) reflects a complete response to each of the objections, rejections and requirements that may be present in the last Office action, and since the claims are now allowable, this completed form is considered to fulfill the response requirements of the last Office action. Applicant is not relieved from providing a separate record of the interview unless box 1 above is also checked.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an attachment to another form.

FORM PTOL-413 (REV.1-96)

MD

Dr B.

Tadayon
R T Hodgson

Manual of Patent-Examining Procedure, Section 713.04 Substance of Interview must Be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application, whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

§1.133 Interviews

(b) In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for response to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C.132)

§ 1.2. Business to be transacted in writing. All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete a two-sheet carbon interleaf Interview Summary Form for each interview held after January 1, 1978 where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks in neat handwritten form using a ball point pen. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate paper number, placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" list on the file wrapper. The docket and serial register cards need not be updated to reflect interviews. In a personal interview, the duplicate copy of the Form is removed and given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephonic interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the telephonic interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Serial Number of the application
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (personal or telephonic)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the claims discussed
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). (Agreements as to allowability are tentative and do not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.)
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview
- Names of other Patent and Trademark Office personnel present.

The Form also contains a statement reminding the applicant of his responsibility to record the substance of the interview.

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his obligation to record the substance of the interview in each case unless both applicant and examiner agree that the examiner will record same. Where the examiner agrees to record the substance of the interview, or when it is adequately recorded on the Form or in an attachment to the Form, the examiner should check a box at the bottom of the Form informing the applicant that he need not supplement the Form by submitting a separate record of the substance of the interview.

It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview:

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner. The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner,
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete or accurate, the examiner will give the applicant one month from the date of the notifying letter or the remainder of any period for response, whichever is longer, to complete the response and thereby avoid abandonment of the application (37 CFR 1.135(c)).

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

Applicant's summary of what took place at the interview should be carefully checked to determine the accuracy of any argument or statement attributed to the examiner during the interview. If there is an inaccuracy and it bears directly on the question of patentability, it should be pointed out in the next Office letter. If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth his or her version of the statement attributed to him. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication "Interview record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Request for Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on July 20, 2000 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/032,450 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicants' amendment filed, September 13, 2000, has been entered and made of record.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-36, 41, 42, 44-72 and 74-79 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 14 of instant invention recite a method of characterizing a region of interest of skin by digitally imaging the region of interest in at least three spectral bands and segmenting the digital images by generating a single segmentation mask defining the boundary of the region of interest for each image, where the single segmentation mask is the segmentation mask having largest area of segmentation masks generated from each image in the at least three spectral bands.

Claim 68 of the instant invention recites a method of characterizing skin lesion including the computing step of estimating a value which is a statistical measure of the deviation of the segmentation mask from the border of an ellipse of the same area, aspect ratio, and orientation as the segmentation mask.

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Claim 69 of the instant invention recites a method of characterizing skin lesion including the computing step of estimating a statistical measure of the gradient values of the intensity of the digital images across the border of the segmented images, at each spectral band.

Claim 70 of the instant invention recites a method of characterizing skin lesion including the computing step of estimating values based on the ratio of standard deviation of the areas of dermal papillae to their mean within the segmentation mask.

Claim 71 of the instant invention recites a method of characterizing skin lesion including the computing step of estimating values of the average and standard deviation of the thickness of rete ridges within the segmentation mask.

Claim 72 of the instant invention recites a method of characterizing skin lesion comprising calibrating each pixel location in the digital image in each spectral band with respect to the stored images of a white target material having known diffuse reflectance, each of the stored images being an average of a plurality of images acquired at each spectral band, while the material undergoes continual in-plane motion.

The features identified in Claims 1, 14 and 68-72, in combination with other limitations of the claims, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior arts of record.

Claim 44 and 67 recite the system corresponding to the method of characterization of lesions on skin disclosed in Claims 1 and 14, and are therefore allowable.

Claims 2-13 and 74-76 are dependent on Claim 1 and are therefore allowable.

Claims 15-36, 41, 42 and 77-79 are dependent on Claim 14 and are therefore allowable.

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Claims 45-66 are dependent on Claim 44 and are therefore allowable.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mehrdad Dastouri whose telephone number is (703) 305-2438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au, can be reached at (703)308-6604.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

or:

(703) 308-5397, (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

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Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.



Mehrdad Dastouri
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2723
September 15, 2000